

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 324-1798



OCT 31 1985

Mr. Jeff Rosenbloom  
Regional Program Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region IX-T-4-1  
215 Fremont Street.  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Rosenbloom: *Jeff*

Enclosed with this letter are twenty-six (26) Preliminary Assessments (PA's) to be submitted for the month of October, 1985. Three sites are high priority sites. They are: Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Hughes Aircraft Company, and PG & E Topock Compressor Station.

An additional file, Fairchild Instruments (CADO95989778) is being returned uncompleted. This site is currently listed on the State Priority Ranking List, and on the National Priorities List.

Please contact me or Kathryn Barwick of my staff if you have any questions concerning these files. Ms. Barwick may be reached at (916) 324-9824.

Sincerely,

David C. Hartley  
Abandoned Site Assessment Program  
Program Management Section

Enclosure

received 11/5/85  
*[Signature]*

Angeles County

Bunch & Bunch Sandblasting  
Burbank Steel Treating, Inc.  
Burton Research Laboratories, Inc.  
California Brass Manufacturing  
Circuit Craft Co.  
(CKA Jerry V. Johnson & Associates)  
Collier Carbon & Chemical Corp.  
(CKA Union Oil Co. of California,  
Union Chemicals Division)

\* Cornell-Dubilier Electronics

D & M Machine Works, Inc.

Die Casting ID Corporation

Enthone, Incorporated

Foundry Service and Supplies, Inc.

Hugh J. Resins Company

\* Hughes Aircraft Co.  
Hughes Helicopters

Oil Transport Company

Pacific Bronze Neodane Co., Inc.

R & T Imports (CKA Falcon Disposal Co.)

Sullivan Chemical Company, Inc.

U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation

Withrow Brothers

San Bernardino County

\* PG & E Topock Compressor Station

San Diego County

Electric Transformer Storage Yard  
(CKA San Diego Electric)

San Mateo County

Menlo Park Sanitation District  
Treatment Plant

\* High Priority Site

CAD 981170004

CAX000084269 CAD 981170066

CAD 981170129

CAD 981170186

CAD 008 306 433

CAD 098 620 420

CAD 098 620 420 Already in CERCLIS

CAD 981170244

CAD 008 304 412

CAD 000 169 117

CAD 008 388 704

CAD 008 316 218

CAD 040360745

CAD 008286221

CAD 006 34 725

CAD 981170541

CAD 981170301

CAD 981170368

CAD 000 630 220

CAD 981170426

CAT080011729

CAD 981170483

CAD089184840

Santa Clara County

Bacharach Instruments

CAD094979135

FMC Corporation

CAD077184745

InPrint Corporation

CAT080013840

Owens-Corning Fiberglas  
Corporation Landfill

CAD980637334

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Preliminary Assessment Summary

CAT080011729

PG & E Topock Compressor Station  
15 miles east of Needles, off Interstate 40  
Section 8, T7N, R23E, SBB & M

Prepare: Erich Linse/Kathryn Barwick  
Toxic Substances Control Division  
Southern California Section

Problem and History:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has been operating this facility since 1951. From 1951 until 1969, untreated cooling tower wastewater (containing chromium) was discharged to a percolation bed just west of the compressor plant, in the vicinity of Bat Cave Wash. PG & E estimates that approximately six million gallons of wastewater were disposed of each year (between 1951 and 1969) in this fashion. PG & E also estimates that the total chromium concentration, including hexavalent chromium, in the cooling tower wastewater was 10ppm.

In 1969, PG & E began treating their wastewater using a two-step process. First, the waste water was treated using sulfur dioxide ( $SO_2$ ) to reduce any hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium. Second, the trivalent chromium was removed by precipitation, upon mixing with sodium hydroxide (NaOH). From 1969 to 1970, this treated wastewater was also discharged to the percolation bed.

From 1970 to 1974, Poly Floc II and ferric sulfate were also used to remove chromium from the wastewater. The waste liquid was then pumped into an underground injection well. No information was provided by PG & E concerning solids disposal during this time period. The injection well was not regulated by any agency. The injection well was closed and capped in 1974.

From 1974 until the present, treated wastewater has been pumped to four PVC-lined evaporation ponds. (After 1975, the use of Poly Floc II and ferric sulfate was discontinued in the treatment process.) Sludge from the ponds was hauled by truck to the City of Needles landfill; that practice was disallowed by the state Department of Health Services (DHS) in 1984. The sludge is now taken to a Class I disposal site.

Recommendation

Staff recommends active status, high priority. According to PG & E estimates, approximately one hundred and eight million gallons of chromium-containing wastewater were disposed of to a percolation bed, during an 18 year period (1951 to 1969). A study should be undertaken to determine whether groundwater contamination has occurred.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT  
Region 9

Preparer's Name Erich Linse/Kathy Barwick

Date October 1985

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1. Site ID Number	ERRIS	CAT080011729
2. Site Name	ERRIS	PG & E Topock Compressor Station
3. Site Location	EPA Form 8900-1	15 miles east of Needles, off Interstate 40, 923.63
	USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle Topock, Arizona	T7N, R23E, Section 8, SBB&M
4. County	ERRIS	San Bernardino
5. Owner (Address & telephone no.)	EPA Form 8900-1	Pacific Gas & Electric Co. 77 Beale Street San Francisco, CA 94106 Contact: Harry Howe (415) 781-4211 ext. 2733
6. Operator (Address & telephone no.)	DHS Manifest 5/15/83	Pacific Gas & Electric Co. P.O. Box 337 Needles, CA 92363 (619) 326-2615
7. Type of Ownership	EPA Form 3510-1 11-17-80	Private
8. Status	6-20-85 PG & E *Correspondence	Facility: active On-site disposal: Inactive
9. Source Activity	EPA Form 35-10-1 11-17-80	Gas and electric production
	Same as #8	Cooling tower water treatment
10. Years of Operation	Same as #8	1951-present
11. Facility Type	Same as #8, page 2	Percolation bed

ITEM NUMBER	SOURCE	INFORMATION
#11 Facility Type (cont)	EPA Form 8900-1	Underground injection well
	Same as #8, Page 3	4 PVC -lined evaporation ponds
12. Waste Type and Description	Same as #8, Page 2	Cooling tower wastewater (untreated and treated) Chromic hydroxide sludge Hexavalent and trivalent chromium
	PG & E Operation Plan P. 7 12-82	Sulfuric acid sludge

## 13. Contacts

Mr. Roy Thielking DHS SCS (213) 620-2380  
 Mr. Dolan Machinist-Foreman PG & E Topock (619) 326-2615  
 Mr. Walter Zaviantseff PG & E San Francisco (415) 972-6908

## 14. Incidents

None recorded at agencies contacted.

Fire and Explosion ☐ Direct Contact ☐

## 15. Inspections (date, type, by whom, recommendations)

No inspection reports found at agencies contacted.

## 16. Enforcement History (list date, type of action, requirements, outcome)

1-6-84 DHS letter: Cease unlawful disposal of chromic hydroxide sludge to City of Needles Solid Waste Disposal Site.  
 Dumping stopped.

17.a. Initial recommendation for further action: Active status, high priority, for further investigation of the percolation beds. Waste water containing chromium was disposed of beds. Waste water containing chromium was disposed of in the percolation beds.

17.b. EPA recommendation for further action: *This facility should receive a site inspection. An inventory of wells in the area should be conducted. 1/11/85 12/14/85*

18. Response Termination: ☐ No Further Action ☐ Pending ☒ Active

Justification:

*Concur. CA DHS will do this SI to determine effect of CR on local groundwater.*

*Paul Courneyer 12-27-85*

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
19. Observed Release		
20. Depth to Aquifer		
21. Net Precipitation Net seas. rainfall Evaporation		
22. Permeability of Unsaturated Zone		
23. Physical State		
24. Containment (Ground Water)		
25. Toxicity		
26. Persistence		
27. Waste Quantity		
28. Ground Water Use		
29. Distance to Well		
30. Population Served (by Ground Water)		

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
31. Facility Slope		
32. 1 yr. 24 hr. rainfall		
33. Distance to Surface Water		
34. Containment (Surface Water)		
35. Surface Water Use		
36. Distance to Sensi- tive Environment		
37. Population Served (by Surface Water)		
38. Distance to Water Intake		
39. Reactivity		
40. Incompatibility		
41. Toxicity (Air)		
42. Population within 4 mile radius		
43. Land Use		